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The Faithfulness of Samuel and His Parents
First Samuel 2: 18-21

The faithfulness of Samuel and his parents DIG: How is Samuel compared to 'Eli's wicked sons? What must have been Samuel's relationship with Hophni and Phinehas? How did Hannah continue to care for her son? How is Samuel compared to Yeshua? How was Hannah and Elkanah blessed because of their faithfulness?

REFLECT: What qualities set Samuel and his parents apart from 'Eli? Which of these qualities would you like to develop more in yourself? When you have to live next to, or work with people like Hophni and Phinehas, how do you react? Does your walk convict them or make them feel right at home? What has the LORD given back to you?

Hannah had given one child to the LORD, and the LORD gave five back.



In contrast to **the** wicked **sons of 'Eli** (**to see link click Ar – 'Eli's Wicked Sons**), we are told of the growing spirituality of little **Samuel**. After **his parents** left **him** at **Shiloh** (see **Ae – The Tabernacle at Shiloh**), **the boy ministered to**

ADONAI, in the presence of **'Eli the high priest (2:18a)**. The references to **him**, sandwiched between descriptions of the scandalous behavior of **Eli's sons**, witness to the keeping power of **the LORD**, to whose service **Samuel** had been dedicated. Scripture takes seriously the commitment of children to **His** service, and **Messiah** warned against corrupting children by ungodly behavior (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Ik – The Little Children and Jesus**).[72]

And while **'Eli's sons** were busy exploiting **their** sacred positions, **Samuel** was ministering to **the LORD,** and like **David**, **wore a** simple white **linen ephod** and functioned as **a priest** (see the commentary on **the Life of David Cr – The Ark Brought to Yerushalayim**)**, even though he was only a child (2:18b NLT).** The **ephod** worn by **the priests** was a much simpler version of **the** ornate **ephod** worn by the high priest (see the commentary on **Exodus Fz – Make the Ephod of Gold, Blue, Purple and Scarlet Yarn**). It consisted of two pieces: first, a white **linen** cape that rested on the shoulders in front and behind, and secondly, a white **linen sash** fastened about the waist. **Samuel** was somewhat of an apprentice **priest**, learning the work of the Tabernacle. The Bible often speaks of clothing representing spiritual life **(Isaiah 61;10; Zechariah 3:1-5; Ephesians 4:22-32; Colossians 3:8-17; First Peter 5:5)**, and a change of clothing symbolizes a new beginning **(Genesis 35:2, 41:14, 4:22; Exodus 19:10; Revelation 3:18)**.



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provided **a** new **ephod** large enough to allow for a year's growth. **Each year his mother would make him an ephod and bring it when she came up with her husband to offer** sacrifices at one of **the** three **annual festivals (2:19). Each year's** new **clothing** spoke not only of **a boy** growing physically, but also spiritually.[73]

Dressed in this fashion, **Samuel** not only played the part of **a priest**, but also looked the part given to **him**. **His** faithful example encouraged sincere faith and godliness in others. **He** reminds us that individual believers may serve **the Lord** faithfully and with holy lives regardless of the general spiritual environment. Believing managers in a harsh work environment may treat their workers with respect. Where others gain success through dishonest manipulation, believers can serve **ADONAI** by honest ministry. In the congregations of **God**, where many members are prayerless and uninterested in teaching and spreading the Gospel, believers can call out to **YHVH** daily to help shine **His** light into the darkness of the world. Such believers, who rise above their surroundings, are extremely important, and many times **God** uses them to bring about revival to **His** seemingly lifeless Church.[74]

Ha'Shem was about to judge **the house of 'Eli** (see **Au – God's Rejection of 'Eli's House**). However, **'Eli's** prayer of **blessing** on **the couple** was abundantly answered. **He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children (Psalm 113:9). 'Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, "May ADONAI give you children from this woman because of the boy you have given to ADONAI"; then they would go home to Shiloh. Therefore, ADONAI took notice of Hannah, and she conceived and bore three more sons and two daughters. Hannah** had given **one child** to **the LORD**, and **the LORD** gave **five** back![75]

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor in the presence of ADONAI (2:20-21 and **26)**, an appropriate description of **a son** who, like **Mary's Son** (see **The Life of Christ Bb – Jesus Grew in Wisdom and Stature, and in Favor with God and Other People**), had come as a blessing to the whole world. We are told nothing of **Samuel's** relationship with **Hophni** and **Phinehas** , but surely **they** didn't like **him**. For by **his** godly walk **he** was constantly accusing **them** of **their** sins; however, **Samuel's** relationship with **ADONAI** protected **him**.[76]

*Dear heavenly **Father**, praise you for being so wonderful! **You** love to bless me and*

fill me with joy. ***I have come that they might have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:10c)! You*** *offer the very best- a living relationship with* ***You****, but the relationship with* ***You*** *is never forced on anyone.* ***You*** *so freely offer it to all who choose to love and worship* ***You****. How fantastic that* ***the Living God*** *of the universe offers a relationship of love to all who love* ***Him****. Now that* ***Yeshua*** *has died and risen you promise to come and to live within that person.*
Yeshua answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him" (John 14:23).

Thank you that you encourage everyone to come to ***You****, to call upon* ***You****, and* ***You*** *will answer.* ***Then you will call on Me, and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me, when you will search for Me with all your heart. Then I will be found by you,*** *says* ***ADONAI (Jeremiah 29: 12-14a).*** *How wonderful it is to know that* ***You*** *see and walk with me.* ***You*** *are super faithful, a mighty and caring heavenly* ***Father*** *who is in control and will take out the evil in your perfect time.* ***You*** *will reign supreme forever and ever as the* ***King of kings (Revelation 19:11-16)!*** *I love to faithfully follow* ***You****. In* ***the Name*** *of* ***the One*** *who sits at* ***Your*** *right hand. Amen*